

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figure 1 as follows:

Depict item 117 in dashed lines, as suggested by the Examiner.

A replacement sheet is attached herewith.

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 9-13, 15-17, 19 and 20 are rejected. Claims 7, 8, 14 and 18 are objected to. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 7, 14, 15, 18, and 20, leaving Claims 1-20 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101 and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph have been traversed, that no new matter has been entered, and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner states “The drawings are objected to because memory 117 in figure 1 is referred to being used in an alternative embodiment and should therefore be shown in phantom.” [paper 20070320, page 2].

Applicant has submitted herewith a replacement drawing sheet showing memory 117 in Figure 1 in dashed lines (phantom).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this objection, which Applicant considers to be overcome.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner remarks “Claims 1-6, 9-10, 15-17, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims are directed to signal processing and fail to positively set forth providing a tangible result such as the acquisition of an image.” [paper 20070320, page 2]

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 15 to now recite, inter alia “...acquiring the cardiac image using the corrected trigger...”. No new matter has been added, as antecedent support may be found in the application as originally filed, such as at Paragraph [0020], for example.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is directed to statutory subject matter, which provides a tangible result, and therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claim Objections

Claims 7, 8, 14, 18, 20 are objected to because of informalities

Applicant has amended Claims 7, 14, 18 and 20 to overcome the objections. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments, as antecedent support may be found in the application as originally filed, such as in the originally filed Claims 1, 11 and 15, for example.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these objections, which Applicant considers to be overcome.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-6, 9-10, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. The Examiner remarks: “The omitted steps are: a step of acquiring cardiac images.” [paper 20070320, page 3].

Claims 11-13, 15-17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. The Examiner alleges: “The omitted elements are means for acquiring cardiac images.” [paper 20070320, page 3].

Applicant overcomes these rejections for the following reasons.

Regarding Claims 1-6 and 9-10 and 19

Applicant submits that the amendment of Independent Claim 1 to now recite, inter alia, “...*acquiring the cardiac image in accordance with the corrected trigger...*”, as set forth above in relation to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101, is also sufficient to

overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, which Applicant considers to be overcome.

Regarding Claims 11 – 13 and 20

Applicant respectfully submits that the alleged omitted means for acquiring images is recited in Independent Claim 11. Specifically, Applicant submits that “... a cardiac scanner...”, which is positively recited in Independent Claim 11 includes the means for acquiring cardiac images alleged to be omitted.

Applicant submits that the specification describes, at Paragraph [0013] “The imaging system 100 includes: *a medical scanner system 110 for generating cardiac image data*, such as, for example, image data of the right atrium and the coronary sinus...”. Further, at Paragraph [0016], “...Medical scanner system 110 includes an Electrocardiogram (EKG) monitor (alternatively electrocardiograph) 112 that outputs electrocardiogram signals 114, ...through an interface board 116 into a scanner 118. In an exemplary embodiment, *scanner 118* is a cardiac computed tomography (CT) system with support *for cardiac imaging*, however, the illustrated scanner 118 is for exemplary purposes only; other imaging systems may also be used.”

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the means for acquiring cardiac images is already positively recited in the claims, and that the claimed subject matter is described in such a manner that reasonably conveys to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, and accordingly, requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, which Applicant considers to be traversed.

Regarding Claims 15-17

Applicant respectfully submits that the alleged omitted means for acquiring images is not an essential element of Independent Claim 15. Applicant respectfully

submits that Independent Claim 15 claims “A *computer program product* for acquiring a cardiac image...” and that the alleged omitted means for acquiring images is not an essential element of the claimed “... *computer program product*...”. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the amendment of Claim 15 and remarks as set forth above in relation to the issues under 35 U.S.C. §101 further define the scope of Claim 15 and convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, which Applicant considers to be overcome.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed subject matter is described in such a manner that reasonably conveys to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections, which Applicant considers to be overcome.

In light of the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101 and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, have been overcome and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

If a communication with Applicant's Attorneys would assist in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned so that any such issues may be promptly resolved.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-0845.

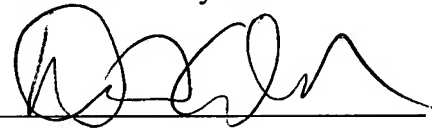
In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time that is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-identified Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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